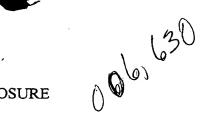
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for making bioactive glasses is described including preparing a reaction mixture of reactants capable of forming a sol-gel, aging the reaction mixture, near equilibrium drying a gel resulting from the reaction mixture, and heating the -near equilibrium-dried gel described. Also described are near equilibrium-dried bioactive glass compositions.